

FAQs

End of mask mandate at UNC-Chapel Hill

Gillings School of Global Public Health

March 6, 2022

Questions about the end of the mask requirement and specific circumstances related to masking	
1. Do I have to wear a mask if I have recently tested positive for COVID?	Yes. You are required to complete 5 days of isolation if you test positive for COVID, followed by a 5-day period in which mask wearing is recommended by CDC.
2. May instructors require students to wear masks in class?	No.
3. May instructors ask students who don't want to wear a mask to join class via Zoom?	No.
4. May supervisors require employees to wear a mask?	No.
5. May instructors or supervisors express a preference for having people wear a mask in class or in the office?	Yes. Instructors and supervisors may say that masks are recommended and appreciated. They may <i>not</i> require students or employees to wear a mask. No students or employees should be penalized in any way for not wearing a mask; nor should anyone be penalized for wearing a mask.
6. May we require visitors to the school to wear a mask indoors in general or in specific spaces?	No. However, employees with private offices may <i>ask</i> visitors to wear a mask in their offices.
7. May we still use Zoom for meetings?	Yes.
8. CDC recommends masks inside for Orange County. Why are we not following CDC guidelines?	UNC-Chapel Hill, and by extension the Gillings School, is part of the UNC System and must follow UNC System policies. UNC System policy is to require universities to follow the guidance of their local (county) health departments. Therefore, we follow the guidance of the Orange County Health Department . Orange County, in consultation with the Orange County Health Department, announced that the mask mandate would be amended March 7 to no longer require masks in most public, indoor spaces, contingent on metrics continuing to reach medium and low community levels. (See March 2 media release , which provides CDC metrics used for decision making in Orange County and additional information and guidance.)
Questions about eating and drinking and serving food and beverages at the School	
9. May we eat and drink in the classroom during class?	Please review signage outside classrooms because eating is always prohibited in some. Otherwise, instructors will discuss whether to permit eating or drinking during class.
10. May we eat and drink in public spaces in Gillings buildings, such as the atrium and elsewhere.	Yes, eating in public spaces inside Gillings is permitted. We continue to encourage people to eat outdoors, weather and space permitting. Four outdoor canopies and additional bistro seating in open courtyards are available for use.
11. May we have outdoor receptions/events with food and beverages?	Yes.
12. May we have indoor receptions/events with food and beverages?	Yes, although indoor receptions or events will require approval. To initiate a request, consult the Gillings Room Reservations webpage .